

Meeting at Yonkers Raceway June 25 1964

**SECRET**

The first meeting took place at 7:00 P.M. in the stables of Yonkers Raceway. At this meeting were present the drivers Alexandr Hirga, Petr Vasilievich, an American interpreter, and myself. The American interpreter introduced me to the drivers. I asked Hirga to show me the horse that he was going to race that night. (this I said in Ukrainian) Hirga showed me the horse and said that his name is Granit. I complimented the horse saying that it was a fine animal, then Hirga asked me where I was from, I said that I was of Ukrainian descent, and that my parents were born in the Ukraine (Western). At this his face lighted up and he said that he was born in Ukraine also, in the town of Lutsk. I asked him then where he was living now he said in Moscow. Hirga asked me if I speak Ukrainian with my friends, I answered that sometimes I do. He said that it was very important that we keep on speaking the national language. He seemed sincerely interested in the life of the Ukrainian immigration, especially in the field of the Ukrainian language. I then asked him how he was enjoying his stay in the city. He replied that he went sightseeing on Wednesday, but did not see enough of the city to form an opinion. He asked me what my parents are doing, how they are making a living? I explained to him that they are both working and making enough money to send me through college. He wanted to know where my father was working, I told him that he was working on the railroad. He wanted to know when we came to America, I told him 14 years ago. At 7:30 the American interpreter stepped up to us. Hirga started to complain that the traffic problem in New York is very big, he said that in Moscow they have less cars but the city is much more beautiful. The interpreter asked me to leave because the drivers were tensed up before the race. I asked Hirga how long he was going to stay in the States, he said until July 5. Then I asked him if I could see him after the race. He said yes definitely. I wished him luck and left.

The second meeting took place after the race. (the Soviet horses took the last two places) I went to the stable and there met the two drivers, the American interpreter, the manager of the team and a stable hand from Moscow, who was called Ivan. I asked Hirga what went wrong with the race, he explained that the German horse got in front of him and did not let him advance to the front, and he was too confused to protest. Hirga was visibly disturbed by the outcome of the race and was not in a talking mood. I asked him how he liked this track and how it compares to the Moscow Hippodrome. He said that the Hippodrome is much bigger and that he was not used to such small tracks. Hirga stepped away to do something to his horse and the trainer started to talk to me.

*Orig routed to  
RTD/AN 14 July 64  
for return to me*

**SECRET**

74-124-2913

SECRET

He asked me where I was from, and what I do , I explained that I am a university student. The trainer then asked where my parents are from. I said , from eastern Ukraine. He said that he lives in Moscow. He also wanted to know what my parents are doing. and when they came to the United States. I answered him the same way I answered Hirga. The trainer gave an impression of being very interested in my answers to his questions. The drivers went to change and I was left alone with Ivan and the translator. Ivan cursed out the German driver when he passed by, saying that because of that scoundrel they lost the race. Besides those remarks Ivan had nothing to say except that he was from Moscow.

During that scene the American translator agreed with Ivan about the nature of the German driver.

Then the drivers returned we went to dinner. ( Hirga, Vasilievich, the American interpreter and myself.) At dinner the two drivers were too disgusted to talk about anything very important , they discussed the race and the horses. I asked Hirga where he was staying, he said at a hotel not too far from the race track.( about one mile) Then I asked him when they would race again. He said sometime next week. After dinner they talked about the race again.

I saw that Hirga did not want to talk about anything else I decided to leave at 11:30 P.M.

SECRET

Descriptions

Stable Hand Iron.

Height 5'7"  
weight 140-150  
age 40-45  
color hair brown, combed down in front  
mildly tanned  
distinguishing characteristics ~~none~~ tattoo on left hand and right arm.

Translator

Height 5'11"  
weight 200  
age 50-60  
hair bald  
mildly tanned  
facial appearance round face, small nose, ruddy complexion

Translator

American student from Harvard University  
Russian background  
Height 5'11"  
weight 140-150  
hair brown  
age 40-50

Names of the translators

1. Dmitry Zarechny
2. Sergei Kobosko
3. Nicholas Bourlakov

Description of Alexander King

Height 5'11"  
Weight 140-150  
color hair - brown  
facial description - heavy eyebrows, square jaw, 3 to 4 gold teeth  
hair combed to the side, curly, ruddy complexion.